
DECADE TWO
(July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2016)

During this decade timber harvesting will continue with a forest health emphasis in all vegetation zones. Primary activity will shift from the subalpine fir zone to the Douglas fir zone, using shelterwood harvests to improve health-related conditions (stand structure, composition and function).

The following harvest strategies have been established:

Subalpine fir and Douglas fir zones:

- Strategies: Harvest using the appropriate silvicultural methods to recover value, reduce beetle risk and other forest health problems and maintain lynx forage.
- Shelterwood harvest approximately 8MMBF/year on approximately 1,000 acres annually, of which approximately 250 acres per year will include final harvest of “at risk” lodgepole pine stands that were initial section cut in Decade 1.

Ponderosa pine zone:

- Uneven-age harvest approximately 1MMBF of timber on 400 acres annually.

Harvest scheduling and site-specific designs will cultivate late seral characteristics and avoid future fragmentation in parts of the forest benefitting wildlife associated with late successional forests.

Harvest regimes will continue to be implemented. In the Douglas fir zone, root rot pockets and mistletoe infestation areas will be focused on for harvest. Harvesting in the ponderosa pine zone will remove Douglas fir invasions, convert areas back to ponderosa pine, and increase ponderosa pine spacing to reduce competition and susceptibility to the western pine beetle.

Stands harvested during the 1980's and the first decade are beginning to provide improved lynx habitat towards the end of the second decade. At the same time, management activities are maintaining and improving habitat of other wildlife species. Implementation of RMZ guidelines continue and progress is made towards the desired future condition of both fish and wildlife habitat.

As harvest locations change, approximately 150 miles of new road construction is anticipated. The majority of these roads, plus up to 40 miles of existing road will be closed to general public motorized use to reduce potential impacts to wildlife. The landscape objective of maintaining no more than 300 - 350 miles of active road at any one time in the forest should be achievable.

As funding becomes available, the Department continues to work with the Colville Confederated Tribe on identifying cultural sites through an archeological survey or other means. Identified sites will be protected in accordance with plan and site specific guidelines.

Expanded access capabilities may make mineral exploration more feasible. Mineral activities would be handled on a case by case basis, subject to SEPA and all resource guidelines in this plan. Sensitive area information collected during the first decade should be available for further defining mineral exploration and mining needs or restrictions. Recreation survey information collected during the first decade should be available this decade for a final decision on recreational gold panning in the forest.

Grazing guidelines (Section 4) implemented voluntarily during the first decade now become permit requirements. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) may be recalculated, and increased or decreased based on range conditions. A relatively even distribution of timber harvesting throughout vegetation zones outside of late successional forest blocks may allow for improved grazing rotation.

Hydrologic maturity is improving in all watersheds. Continued rehabilitation of sediment sources as well as implementation of other guidelines (road maintenance and closure, soil erosion) should maintain water quality and fish habitat at acceptable levels and progress towards desired future conditions.

As recreation demands increase, baseline information from the recreation survey can be used to make appropriate accommodations, consistent with all resource guidelines and trust obligations. If statewide procedures are completed for scenic management and public use decisions, scenic guidelines can be developed for the Loomis Forest.

Watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, rangeland conditions, cattle impacts, and effectiveness of landscape guidelines are monitored to determine outcomes and needs for management changes.

The following two maps depict:

- 1) A conceptual display of harvest activity during Decade Two of the Planning Period based on landscape planning assumptions and guidelines. This map is not intended to show actual harvest locations, harvest acres, road locations and road miles. (The anticipated locations of new road construction has not been determined through SNAP modeling, but is estimated to be 150 miles.)
- 2) Age class distribution across the landscape at the end of Decade Two based on conceptual harvest assumptions.